

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7581

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WAWSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2243

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU: SONNENFELDT
"EPISODE".

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU SAYS THAT SO FAR
AS ROMANIA IS CONCERNED SONNENFELDT "EPISODE" IS CLOSED.
THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER PUBLIC DEBATE ON ISSUE UNLESS
"AN IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATION FIGURE" WERE TO REOPEN DISCUSSION.
GOR HOPES THIS WILL NOT OCCUR AND THAT WE CAN GET BACK TO
WORK ON MORE CONSTRUCTIVE MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU'S REQUEST I MET WITH HIM
APRIL 23. DCM AND NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS COUNSELLOR MITRAN
WERE PRESENT.

3. MACOVESCU OPENED CONVERSATION BY JOCLARLY OBSERVING
HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE HOW "PREOCCUPITED" I HAD BEEN IN
RECENT DAYS DISCUSSING SONNENFELDT "DOCTRINE" WITH VARIOUS
MEMBERS OF ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP. I REPLIED I WAS GLAD TO
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HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN OUR VIEWS TO

VARIOUS OF HIS COLLEAGUES INCLUDING IN THE LAST TWO DAYS THE FIRST SECRETARIES IN SUCEAVA AND PIATRA NEAMT. I ASKED IF HE HAD TALKED TO MALITA SINCE HIS RETURN ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH HAL SONNENFELDT. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE HAD, HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT "WE (I.E. THE U.S.) ARE BEING SO SENSIBLE" IN OUR HANDLING OF THE MATTER. SO FAR AS ROMANIA WAS CONCERNED THE ISSUE WAS NOW CLOSED. THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER OFFICIAL ROMANIAN COMMENT IN PUBLIC "UNLESS A MAJOR FIGURE IN YOUR GOVERNMENT REOPENS THE ISSUE."

4. MACOVESCU SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT BECAUSE WE WERE IN THE MIDST OF AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IT WAS POSSIBLE THERE MIGHT CONTINUE TO BE OCCASIONAL REFERENCES TO THE SUBJECT BY VARIOUS CANDIDATES AND BY THE PRESS. BUT HE REPEATED THAT SO LONG AS THERE WAS NO EFFORT BY "A MAJOR FIGURE" IN THE GOVERNMENT TO REOPEN THE DEBATE THE GOR CONSIDERED THE "EPISODE" TO BE FINISHED.

5. I SAID THAT I WAS HAPPY TO HEAR THIS. IT WAS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF EITHER GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO STIMULATE PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE ISSUE. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT THE ROMANIANS UNDERSTOOD OUR POLICY IN EASTERN EUROPE. THE PRESIDENT HAD PUBLICLY REAFFIRMED THIS POLICY WHICH, SIMPLY PUT, WAS STRONG SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF EACH STATE IN THE REGION. MACOVESCU THEN ASKED ME IF THERE WERE ANY OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ROMANIAN POSITION THAT WERE UNCLEAR. I SAID JUST ONE. I WAS CURIOUS WHETHER THE ROMANIANS HAD FELT ANY "WIND BLOWING FROM THE EAST" ON THE SUBJECT. I HAD SEEN VERY LITTLE EE PRESS COMMENT AND NOTHING FROM THE SOVIETS.

6. MACOVESCU RESPONDED THAT SO FAR ONLY THE POLES AND THE HUNGARIANS HAD COMMENTED, AND THIS HAD BEEN FAIRLY MUTED. I ASKED WHAT IF ANYTHING THE SOVIETS HAD SAID TO THE ROMANIANS. MACOVESCU TOSSED THIS OFF BY LAUGHINGLY OBSERVING THAT THE RUSSIANS ONLY SAY THAT "THE AMERICANS TALK TOO MUCH." AFTER ALL, HE ADDED, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO BE EITHER PRO OR CON ON THE MATTER. BUT IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION HE COULD SAY THAT THUS FAR THE ROMANIANS HAD FELT "NO COLD WIND" BLOWING FROM

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MOSCOW, BUT THEIR VERY SILENCE WAS DISCONCERTING SINCE IT COULD WELL IMPLY ASSENT OR SATISFACTION.

7. TERMINATING THIS PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION, MACOVESCU REITERATED ROMANIA'S DESIRE TO END DEBATE OF THE ISSUE "UNDER THE CONDITIONS WE HAVE JUST DISCUSSED". UNDERSCORING THIS HE ADDED THAT HE TRUSTED I HAD NOT FAILED TO NOTICE THE ABSENCE OF ANY FURTHER COMMENT IN THE ROMANIAN PRESS

ON THE SUBJECT.

8. COMMENT: THE SIGNAL CAME THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR. WE HAVE A TRUCE IF WE WANT ONE. I LABOR UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT THE SUBJECT WILL NOT CONTINUE TO BE A MATTER OF SERIOUS DEBATE (AND CONCERN) WITHIN THE GOR. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT HAVING PERSUADED THEMSELVES THEY HAVE MADE THEIR POINT (AND PERHAPS BEING ALSO PERSUADED BY US THAT THEY HAVE OVER STATED IT) THE ROMANIANS WANT TO MOVE THE BILATERAL DIALOGUE BACK INTO MORE CONSTRUCTIVE CHANNELS. MACOVESCU'S COMMENTS ON HOW TO DO THIS FOLLOWS BY SEPTELS.
BARNES

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